

25X1A6a

February 3, 1958

25X1A9a

Embassy Language School
Army Section MAAG
APO 63, Unit 2
San Francisco, California

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of December 29. Your letters are much appreciated not only by me but others in the crowd who have an interest in the school there.

I have held off writing a specific response to your request to be assigned following your completion of training to the slot being vacated by [REDACTED]. The system of assignments to overseas posts has been undergoing some changes and certain of the overseas posts have been designated by the DD/I as "DD/I posts" as distinct from those under the control of one or another of the offices within the DD/I area. The fate of the [REDACTED] post has at length been decided and it has been designated as a DD/I post.

Accordingly, it is no longer under what might be called ORR control as it was when [REDACTED] was assigned there. Mr. Amory himself is now making the decisions on assignments to the several DD/I posts, with a new procedure which involves advertising these jobs throughout the DD/I area and encouraging one and all who are interested to apply.

This procedure works somewhat to your disadvantage since you will be unable to make personal application. On your behalf, however, the Area plans to make your interest in this assignment known and so far as we can, to act as your advocate. That is to say we will do our best to see that your qualifications are fully considered along with those of any others who may be interested in the job. The decision will be communicated to you as soon as we get it from Mr. Amory.

We appreciate the point you make concerning the wisdom of remaining in a Chinese speaking area until your knowledge of the language is thoroughly consolidated. As I said in my earlier letter, we will do our best to take this into account in considering the

timing of your next assignment. In the event (which is not unlikely) that someone other than yourself gets the nod as [REDACTED] successor, 25X1A9a it may possibly be that we can extend your assignment to the school a bit and possibly give you a maximum, or near maximum, tour rather than minimum there in the school. I do not want you to be misled; I am not certain that this can be done. However, I will personally investigate this possibility.

I know I need not advise you not to hold your breath over the outcome of these decisions. As an old Navy type, you are doubtless aware of the apparent incomprehensibility of occasional assignment decisions. All I can say is we will do our best and, meanwhile, hope you can retain your customary objectivity, not to say urbanity.

Thank you very much for your good New Year wishes. It has 25X1A9a been a pleasure to hear from you and to hear that the [REDACTED] are enjoying residence in the Far East as much as they are. Please be sure that your wishes are reciprocated. I will write to you as soon as I have more to report.

Sincerely yours,

25X1A9a
[REDACTED]

REM:m1c